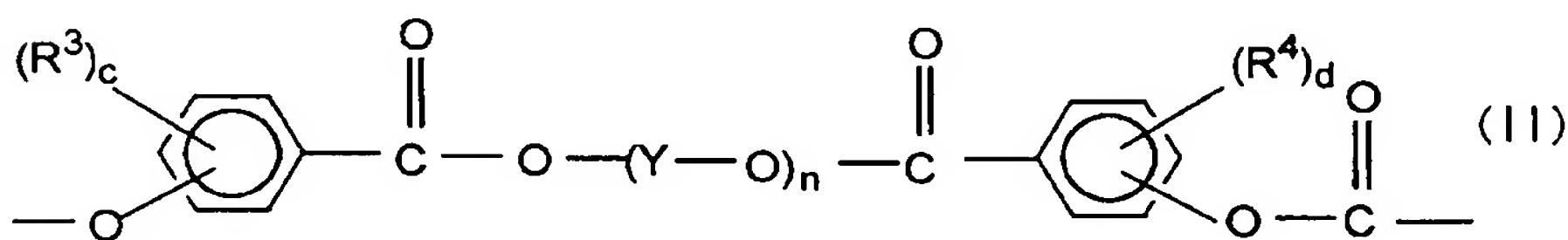
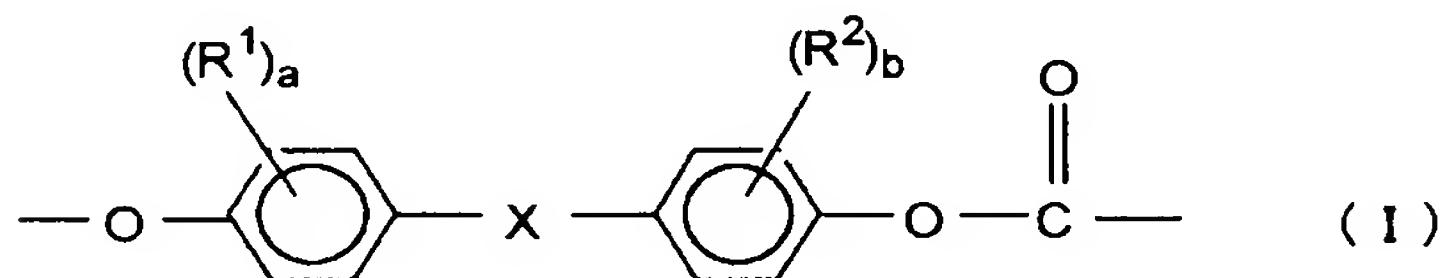


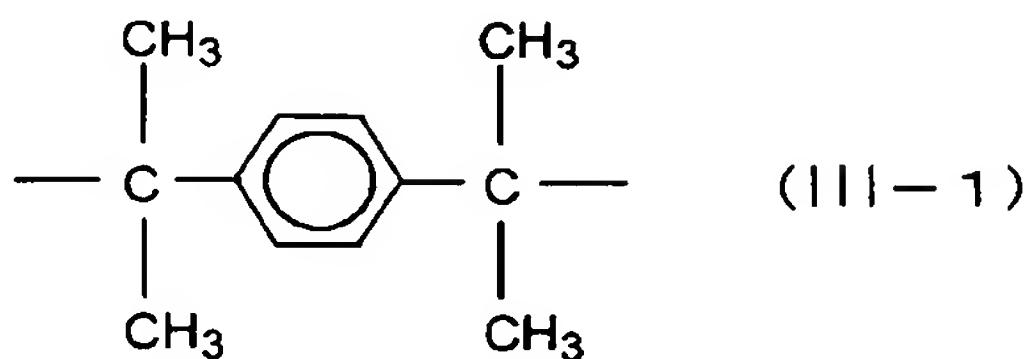
Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

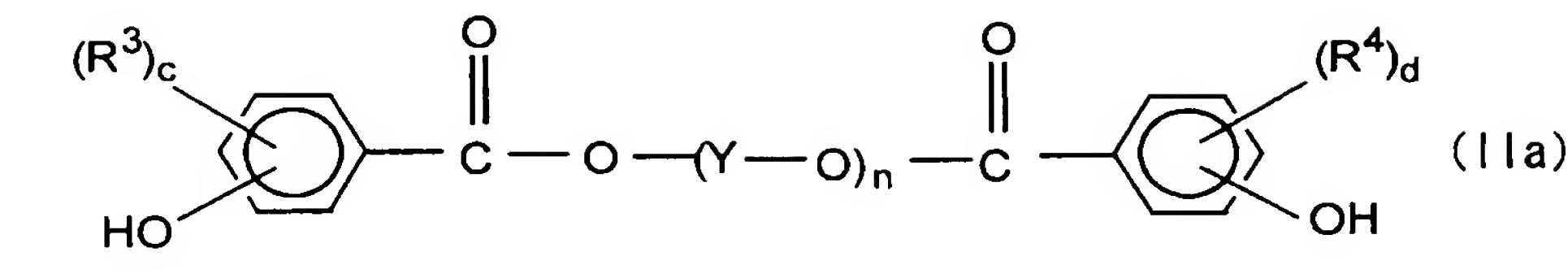
Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A method for producing a polycarbonate copolymer comprising structural repeating units represented by formulas (I) and (II):



wherein each of R¹ and R² independently represents a C1 to C6 alkyl group; X represents a single bond, a C1 to C8 alkylene group, a C2 to C8 alkylidene group, a C5 to C15 cycloalkylene group, a C5 to C15 cycloalkylidene group, -S-, -SO-, -SO₂-, -O-, -CO-, or a group represented by formula (III-1) or (III-2):



each of R³ and R⁴ independently represents a C1 to C3 alkyl group; Y represents a C2 to C15 linear-chain or branched alkylene group; a to d are independently integers of 0 to 4; and n is an integer of 2 to 450, by reacting (A) a dihydric phenol, (B) a phenol-modified diol and (C) a carbonate precursor, wherein the phenol-modified diol (B) is represented by formula (IIa) and comprises 500 ppm by mass or less of a hydroxybenzoic acid:



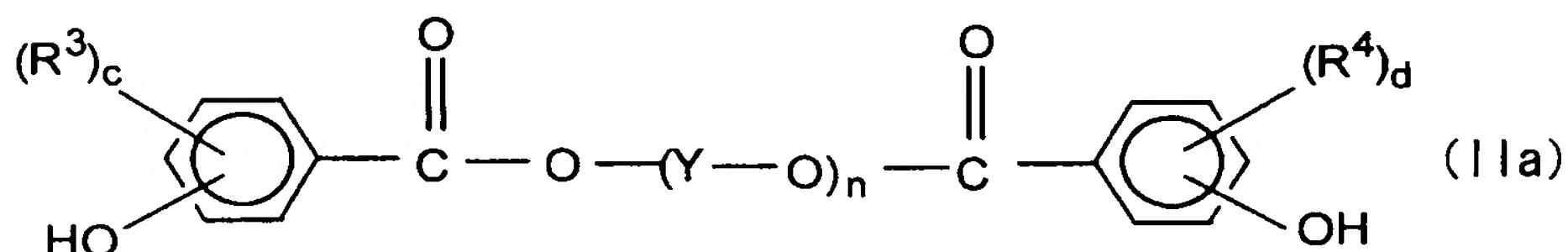
where R^3 , R^4 , Y , c , d and n are as defined above.

Claim 2 (Original): A method for producing a polycarbonate copolymer as described in claim 1, wherein the phenol-modified diol has a hydroxybenzoic acid alkyl ester content of 1.0 mass % or less.

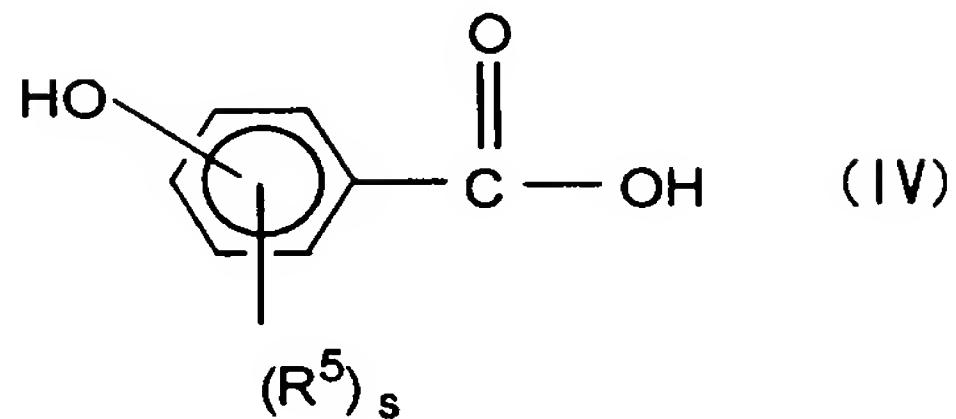
Claim 3 (Previously Presented): A method for producing a polycarbonate copolymer as described in claim 1, wherein the hydroxybenzoic acid is p-hydroxybenzoic acid.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): A method for producing a polycarbonate copolymer as described in claim 2, wherein the hydroxybenzoic acid alkyl ester is a p-hydroxybenzoic acid alkyl ester.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A comonomer represented by formula (IIa):

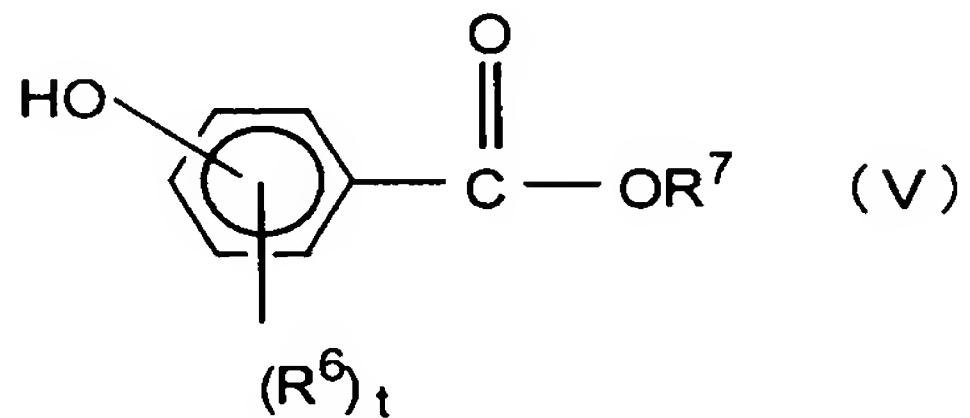


wherein each of R^3 and R^4 independently represents a C1 to C3 alkyl group; Y represents a C2 to C15 linear-chain or branched alkylene group; c and d are independently integers of 0 to 4; and n is an integer of 2 to 450, wherein the amount of a hydroxybenzoic acid represented by formula (IV) present therein is 500 ppm by mass or less:



wherein R^5 is a C1 to C3 alkyl group, and s is an integer of 0 to 4.

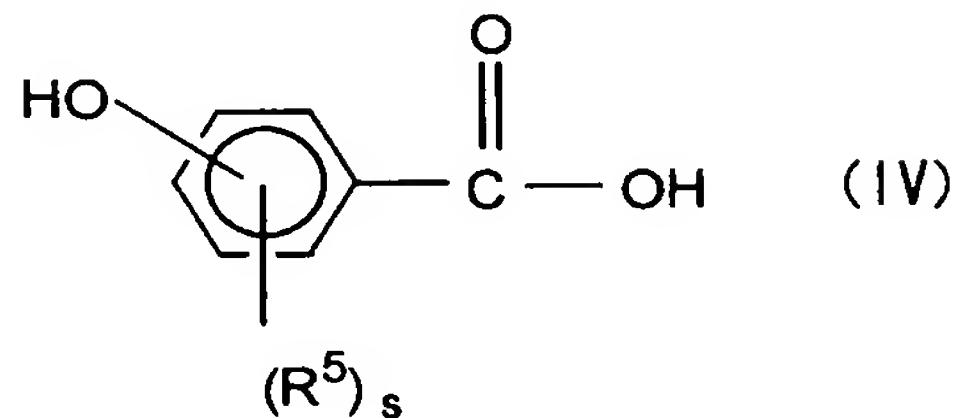
Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A comonomer as claimed in claim 5, in which the amount of a hydroxybenzoic acid alkyl ester represented by formula (V) therein is 1.0 mass % or less:



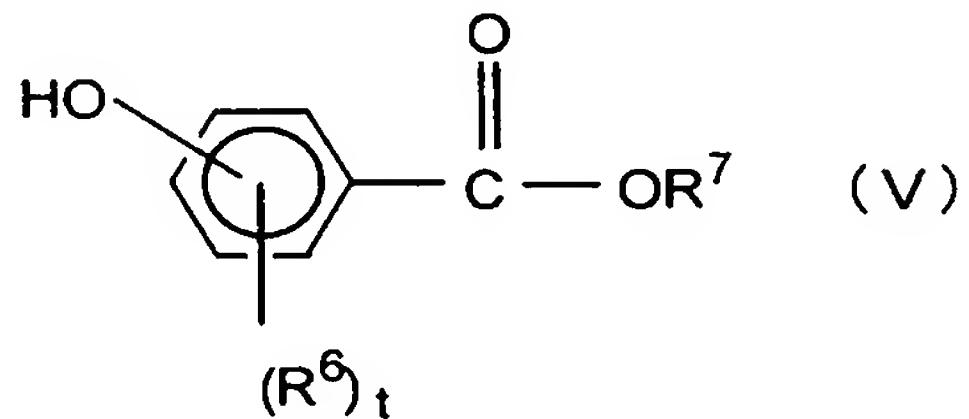
wherein R^6 is a C1 to C3 alkyl group; R^7 is a C1 to C10 alkyl group; and t is an integer of 0 to 4.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): A comonomer as described in claim 5, wherein n in formula (IIa) is 2 to 200.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A comonomer for as described in claim 5, which is produced through esterification between a poly(alkylene ether glycol) and a hydroxybenzoic acid represented by formula (IV):

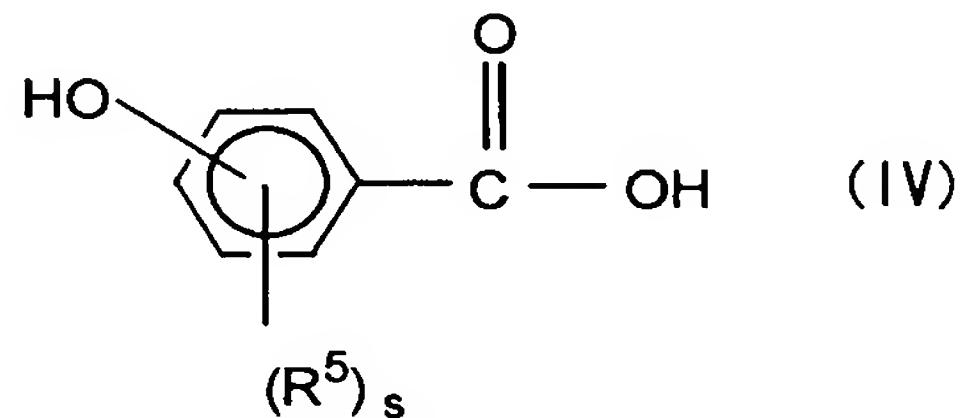


wherein R^5 is a C1 to C3 alkyl group, and s is an integer of 0 to 4 and/or a hydroxybenzoic acid alkyl ester represented by formula (V):

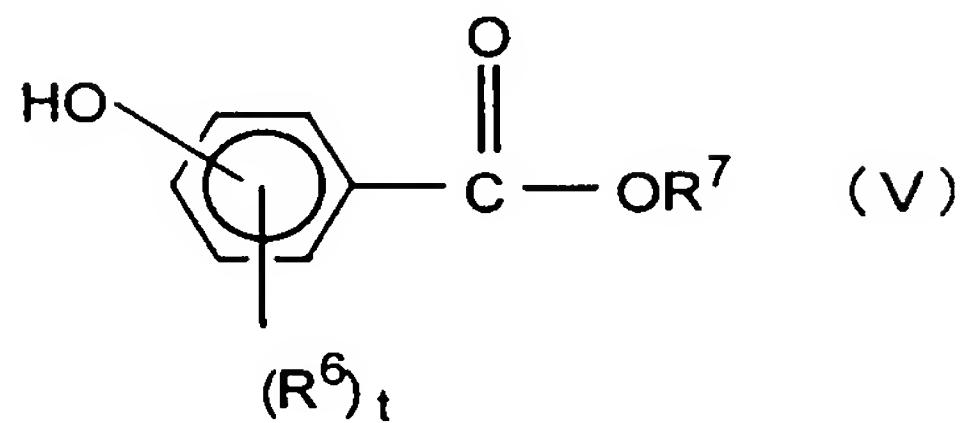


wherein R^6 is a C1 to C3 alkyl group; R^7 is a C1 to C10 alkyl group; and t is an integer of 0 to 4

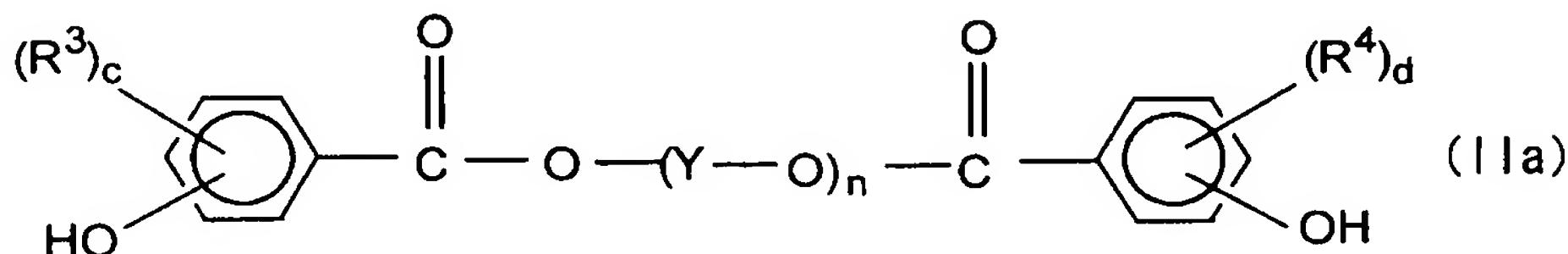
Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A method for producing a comonomer comprising esterifying a poly(alkylene ether glycol) with a hydroxybenzoic acid represented by formula (IV):



wherein R^5 is a C1 to C3 alkyl group, and s is an integer of 0 to 4 and/or a hydroxybenzoic acid alkyl ester represented by formula (V):



wherein R⁶ is a C1 to C3 alkyl group; R⁷ is a C1 to C10 alkyl group; and t is an integer of 0 to 4 to yield a reaction mixture comprising a compound represented by formula (IIa):



wherein each of R³ and R⁴ independently represents a C1 to C3 alkyl group; Y represents a C2 to C15 linear-chain or branched alkylene group; c and d are independently integers of 0 to 4; and n is an integer of 2 to 450 and, subsequently, treating the reaction mixture with an aqueous alkaline solution.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A method for producing a comonomer as described in claim 9, wherein the aqueous alkaline solution has a pH of 8 to 11.